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TITLE: SUBJECT: COCAINE SEIZURE IN MADRID SAID TO BELONG TO MEDELLIN CARTEL

ORIGDATE: 199001101532

SOURCE: STATE

DOCNO: MADRID 00246

TEXT:

TAGS: SNAR, SP

SUBJECT: COCAINE SEIZURE IN MADRID SAID TO BELONG TO MEDELLIN CARTEL

RELEASED IN PART B3 CIA PERS/ORG

1. PRESS REPORTING OF JANUARY 10, 1990 DETAILED THE ARREST OF 12 COLOMBIANS AND THE SEIZURE OF 278 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE HCL IN MADRID. ACCORDING TO MADRID'S LEADING DAILY "EL PAIS," A POLICE INVESTIGATION LED TO THE ARREST OF JUAN CARLOS BETANCOUR ALZATE AND 11 OTHER COLOMBIANS ON JANUARY 8. BETANCOUR IS REPORTEDLY A CLOSE CONFIDANT OF SEVERO ESCOBAR, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN JAIL IN SWITZERLAND. ESCOBAR IS THE ALLEGED NEPHEW OF MEDELLIN CARTEL LEADER PABLO ESCOBAR GAVIRIA. BECAUSE OF THIS CONNECTION, POLICE BELIEVE THAT THE SHIPMENT BELONGED TO THE MEDELLIN CARTEL.

2. DURING THE MORNING OF JANUARY 8 POLICE SEARCHED 10 APARTMENTS IN SOME OF THE MOST AFFLUENT NEIGHBORHOODS IN MADRID. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, SOME OF THE APARTMENTS WERE BEING USED EXCLUSIVELY AS WAREHOUSES FOR STORING COCAINE. DURING THE SEARCHES POLICE SEIZED 278 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE HCL. THE COCAINE WAS PACKAGED IN ONE KILOGRAM BAGS MARKED WITH "JET. PUREZA 100 PER CENT. PRODUCTO DE COLOMBIA." (JET. PURITY 100 PER CENT. PRODUCT OF COLOMBIA). ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE PURE HCL COULD PRODUCE 2,000 KILOGRAMS OF CUT COCAINE AND BE WORTH APPROXIMATELY 26 BILLION SPANISH PESETAS (APPROXIMATELY 260 MILLION USD) ON THE STREET. ZAPPALA

END OF MESSAGE

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STATE

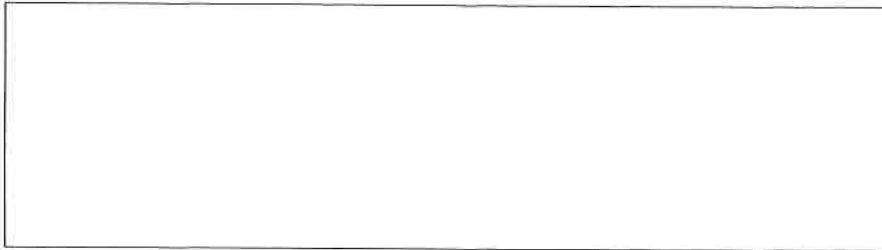
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: James Cooper, Senior Reviewer

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